Our Lady of the Black Hills

12365 Sturgis Road, Piedmont, SD 57769
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e: olbh@olbh.org *web:* www.olbh.org
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

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Liturgy and Prayer

Sunday Liturgy: Saturday, 5:00 pm; Sunday, 9:00 am & 6:00 pm
Daily Liturgy: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 8:00 am
Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday, 8:00 am - 6:30 pm, with Reconciliation from 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Gatherings of Grace

Our parish has an intergenerational model of faith formation to encourage lifelong learning for all ages called Gatherings of Grace. All generations meet together the second Wednesday of each month, September through May.

Bulletin Announcements

Please email bulletin@olbh.org by noon on Tuesday for the following Sunday bulletin.

While Fr. Mark is away, finishing up his studies, members of the parish have been asked to write a brief reflection on the Mass readings.

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

For many weeks, I had been meaning to get eight boxes of clothes hauled into the Cornerstone Rescue Mission's Thrift Store. For one reason or another, it simply never happened. Finally, on the Thursday after Christmas, during the start of a blizzard, I asked my son Matt to help me load those boxes into a vehicle. His response was, sure, followed with him asking me if I wanted him to go along to deliver them. I said I would appreciate it.

As I read the Mass readings for this Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, the word obedience kept coming to mind. And it reminded me of how readily Matt responded to my request for help. And not only did what I asked of him, but did even more. As I reflect on my many years of being a father, I think the thing I most appreciated, but way too often didn't acknowledge, was when my kids were obedient.

This brings me back to the readings. God asks Isaiah to be a servant, Paul to spread the Word, and John the Baptist to identify Jesus as the Messiah. And each responded by submitting to God's will. And even though we may not be an Isaiah, Paul, or John, each of these is an example of how we should respond when God asks something of us.

For a few, we may experience God asking us very directly what he wants us to do. But for most of us, it will come in a different form, like being asked to help with a ministry, a friend asking for prayers, reading an article about a disaster or someone's struggle, or maybe in a passing thought to call someone you haven't spoken to in a very long time, or even a father asking a son for help. All of these are ways God could be asking us to be obedient to his will. So when asked, how will you respond? Will it be "here am I, Lord; I come to do your will"?

Obediently,
Greg Sass
Deacon Candidate.

Our parish community welcomes
Abbot Thomas Hidebrand, from the Blue Cloud Abbey in Marvin, SD.
We thank you, Abbot Thomas, for celebrating Eucharist with us this week..

This Week at Our Lady of the Black Hills

January 17 – 23, 2011

Monday, January 17

Memorial of St. Anthony, abbot

Readings: *Hebrews 5:1-10; Psalms 110:1-4; Mark 2:18-22 (white)*

08:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: For the intentions of the Van Asma Family

4:30 pm: Lectio Divina Group

6:30 pm: Cub Scouts

7:00 pm: Book Club

Tuesday, January 18

Readings: *Hebrews 6:10-20; Psalms 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mark 2:23-28 (green)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: For Blessings on Erin & Tom Fritz as they live out their marriage together

7:00 pm: Returning Catholics – St. Isaac Jocues

7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wednesday, January 19

Readings: *Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Psalms 110:1-4; Mark 3:1-6 (green)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: For healing of Pattie Hawkins

8:30 am – 8:30 pm: Eucharistic Adoration

9:00 am – Noon: Food Pantry

10:00 am: Staff Holy Hour

7:00 – 8:15 pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday, January 20

Readings: *Hebrews 7:25-8:6; Psalms 40:7-10, 17; Mark 3:7-12 (green)*

8:00 am: Daily Liturgy

Mass Intention: Healing for Casey Bohms

10:00 am: Staff Meeting

Friday, January 21

Memorial of St. Agnes, virgin & martyr

Readings: *Hebrews 8:6-13; Psalms 85:8, 10-14; Mark 3:13-19 (red)*

Saturday Morning, January 22

Readings: *Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14; Psalms 47:2-3, 6-9; Mark 3:20-21 (green)*

9:00 – 10:00 am: Day of Prayer Holy Hour with Adoration

9:00 am: Noon: Food Pantry

3:30 – 4:30 pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday Evening, January 22

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: *Isaiah 8:23-9:3; Psalms 27:1, 4, 1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23 (green)*

5:00 pm Sunday Vigil Liturgy

Mass Intention: For the repose of the soul Carl Savio

Sunday, January 23

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: *Isaiah 8:23-9:3; Psalms 27:1, 4, 1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23 (green)*

9:00 am: Sunday Liturgy

Mass Intention: For all married couples

10:00 am: Boy Scout Breakfast

4:00 pm: Life Night

6:00 pm: Sunday Liturgy

Mass Intention: For our parish community of OLBH

7:15 pm: RCIA

Visited the Terra Sancta website lately? View the construction project as it looked on New Year's Day. Go to www.terrasancta.org and take a virtual tour.

OLBH Parish News

Knights of Columbus Chili Feed

OLBH Knight will have a Chili Feed on Saturday, February 19th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Free will donations will be accepted. Everyone come have some chili and support out local Knights of Columbus Chapter.

Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts at OLBH

Did you know OLBH has a Cub Scout Pack and a Boy Scout Troop? Cub Scouts begins at age 6-7 (1st grade) through age 10. Boy Scouts begins at age 11 through 18. It is a great program, children and parents wanted. Please contact Bob Weaver 787-9557 if interested or for more information.

Computer Needed

Happy New Year from OLBH Torrp 88 and Pack 91. We pray you have been blessed this past year. Troop 88 and Pack 91 are in great need of a computer If by chance you received a new computer for Christmas, would you consider donating your old computer to us? A laptop prefered, but any donation would be appreciated. It would be used for Scout opperations such as tracking training and advancement. Donations are tax deductable. Pleae consider and contact Bob Weaver at 787-9557 if you can help. Thank you!

Married Sweethearts

Mark your calendars! Married Sweethearts Mass & Dinner-Dance, Saturday, February 12, 2011! Join us for this year's event, "***Celebrating 25th Anniversary of Married Sweethearts***". Mass will be held at 5:30 pm at Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral. The dinner-dance will be held at the Ramkota in Rapid City following Mass. Registration is required! Registration fee: $55/couple. **Registration deadline: Friday, February 4, 2011!** No late registrations will be accepted after the deadline! For more information, please call Kathy at Family Life Ministries at 343-3541 or e-mail at kcordes@diorc.org.

Prayer of Humility

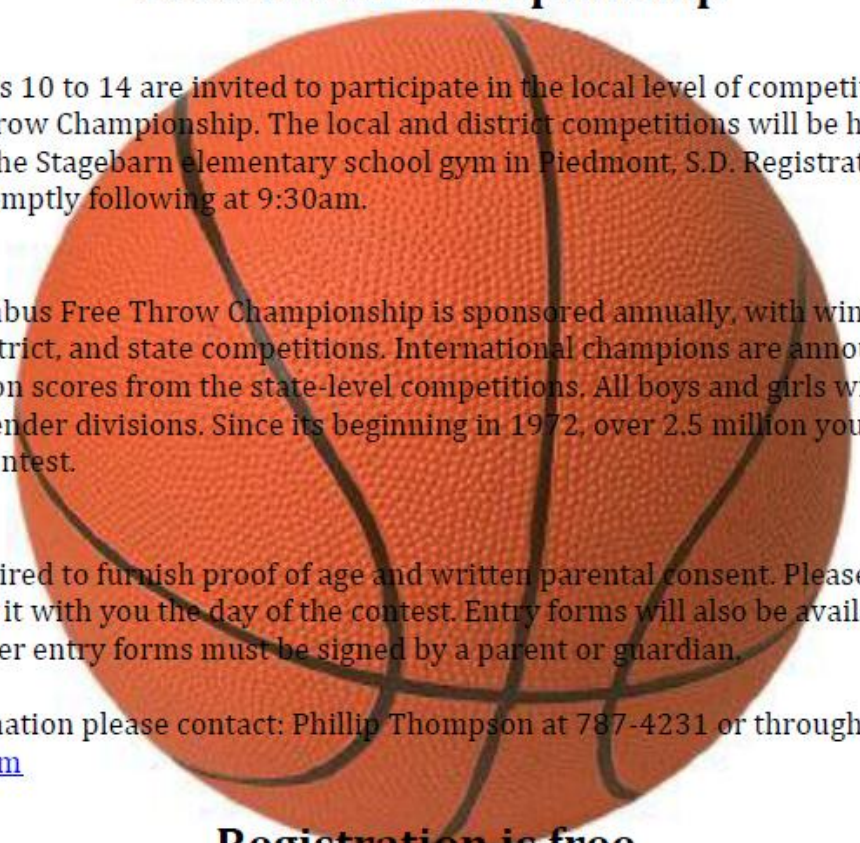
~ Written by Cardinal Merry del Val

O Jesus meek and humble of heart, Hear me.
From the desire of being esteemed,
Deliver, me, Jesus.
From the desire of being loved,
Deliver me Jesus.
From the desire of being extolled,
Deliver me Jesus
From the desire of being honored,
Deliver me Jesus
From the desire of being praised,
Deliver me Jesus
From the desire of being preferred to others,
Deliver me Jesus
From the desire of being consulted,
Deliver me Jesus
From the desire of being approved,
Deliver me Jesus
From the fear of being humiliated,
Deliver me Jesus
From the fear of being despised,
Deliver me Jesus
From the fear of suffering rebukes,
Deliver me Jesus
From the fear of being calumniated,
Deliver me Jesus
From the fear of being forgotten,
Deliver me Jesus
From the fear of being ridiculed,
Deliver me Jesus
From the fear of being wronged,
Deliver me Jesus
From the fear of being suspected,
Deliver me Jesus
That others may be loved more than I,
Jesus grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be esteemed more than I,
Jesus grant me the grace to desire it.
That in the opinion of the world,
others may increase, and I may decrease,
Jesus grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be chosen and I set aside,
Jesus grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be preferred to me in everything,
Jesus grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may become holier than I,
provided that I become as holy as I should,
Jesus grant me the grace to desire it.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Contest Announcement
Local K of C Council 7079 to Sponsor Youth Free Throw Championship



All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local and district competitions will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at the Stagebarn elementary school gym in Piedmont, S.D. Registration begins at 9:00, with competition promptly following at 9:30am.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through the local, district, and state competitions. International champions are announce by the K of C headquarters based on scores from the state-level competitions. All boys and girls will compete in their respective age and gender divisions. Since its beginning in 1972, over 2.5 million youths have participated in the contest.

Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. Please fill out the included entry form and bring it with you the day of the contest. Entry forms will also be available at the contest site as well. Remember entry forms must be signed by a parent or guardian.

For additional information please contact: Phillip Thompson at 787-4231 or through email at ttreesap@hotmail.com

Registration is free.

Each contestant receives three warm-up tosses followed by 15 consecutive free throw attempts from the appropriate age-designated foul line. Ties will be settled by additional rounds of 5 free throws. Certificates will be awarded to the first place winners in each age and gender category and all contestants will receive a certificate of participation.
Come join the fun and…

GIVE IT A SHOT!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

ENTRY FORM AND SCORE SHEET

I wish to enter THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP in the category and age group checked below. My eligibility is to be determined by my age as of January 1. I also understand that I may only compete in one council level competition.

Secondary school athletes should check with the school athletic director about eligibility before participating. Birth Certificate for other proof of age is required to verify eligibility.

☐ Boys ☐ Girls

AGE: ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14

Name of Entrant _____ Date of Birth _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Signature of Entrant _____

2. This Section To Be Completed By Parent/Guardian:

COUNCIL NO._____

The undersigned hereby request and approve entrant's registration and participation in the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP. In consideration of such registration and participation, the undersigned hereby agree: that entrant's participation will be at the sole risk of entrant and the undersigned and without liability to Knights of Columbus Supreme Council and any of its subordinate units and their officers, members, agents and employees, all of whom the undersigned hereby agree to release, idemnify and hold harmless from any and all claims and expenses resulting from or relating to entrant's said participation.

The entrant may compete in only one council level competition.

Witness _____ Father/guardian _____ Date signed _____ Mother/guardian _____

SCORE SHEET

3. This Section To Be Completed By K of C Officials:

SCORING INSTRUCTIONS: Each contestant will be allowed **15** consecutive free throws in **council** competition and **25** consecutive free throws in **all other levels**. Indicate number of free throws "made" in first column. Those tied for highest score will compete in successive rounds each being allowed 5 free throws until one contestant emerges as winner. Use other columns to indicate scores in "playoff" rounds.

COMPETITION LEVEL	SCORING: ☒ BASKET MADE ⊡ BASKET MISSED					TOTAL BASKETS MADE
COUNCIL	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	
	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	
DISTRICT	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	
	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	
REGIONAL	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	
	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	
STATE	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	
	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐	

News from Around the Diocese

"Grooming" Behaviors

Most child abuse occurs after the sexual predator has gained the trust of the child and of his or her parents/guardians through a process called "grooming." The grooming process has three basic elements, which are separate but interrelated: physical grooming, psychological grooming, and community grooming. Physical grooming leads to intimate behavior. The many forms of psychological grooming pull the child under the control of the predator. The purpose of community grooming is to gain the trust of everyone involved. Linda Severns, the director of the diocesan Safe Environment program, can be reached at 343.3541 or lseverns@diorc.org.

National Vocations Awareness Week

January 9-15, 2011, is National Vocations Awareness Week. It begins with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord – "I, the Lord, have called you." Each of us receives the gift of the Holy Spirit at our baptism, and the Lord calls us according to His plan for each of us. Let us remember to pray for priests and consecrated men and women this week, and for married couples and families. Send a card to a priest or consecrated person this week, thanking them for the gift of themselves given to Christ and to His body, the Church, or invite them for dinner. Pray for more vocations to priesthood and consecrated life – and consider a vocation to priesthood or consecrated life! www.Gods-call.org

Women of Faith

Come finish discussing Kings 2 on Wednesday, January 19, even if you have not attended before. (Try to read the section beforehand.) Watch a Jeff Cavin's - Bible Timeline video and find out about the fall of Israel and the exile of Judah fits into salvation history. Also glace at CCC 2838-2845 and Daniel 1, 2, and 7. Join us in the Cathedral Lower Sacristy (down the church elevator and into the hall by the kitchen) Wednesday from 9:00 – 11:00 am.

Encountering Life Alone

Beginning Experience® Level 1 Separated & Divorced Support Group. Are you recently separated or divorced? Are you struggling with the pain and loneliness? Healing can begin with the next the nine-week session of the separated and divorced support group. The group starts at **7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2011** at St. Therese the Little Flower Church in Rapid City. The support group is non-denominational and open to all Christian men and women who are hurting due to separation or divorce. Pre-registration is requested! Registration fee is $25.00. Need-based scholarships available. To pre-register or for more information, call Jill at Family Life Ministries, 605-343-3541.

24 Hour Adoration

Cathedral Parish is hosting 24 hour Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration in Our Lady's Chapel in observance of the Roe v Wade decision legalizing abortion following the 5:30 PM Mass on Friday, January 21, until 5:15 PM Saturday, January 22. You are invited to participate in this time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Sign-up sheets are available in the gathering area, on the counter. Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration is meant to deepen our love for the Lord and desire for union with Him.

National Association of Pastoral Musicians ~ Winter Meeting

Saturday, January 22, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. Paul Catholic Church, 855 5th Ave., Belle Fourche, SD. Fr. Tim Hoag will give presentations on the Funeral Liturgy and on Progressive Solemnity with the Third Edition of the Roman Missal. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. **Please register by January 18.** To register, contact Katie Severns at (605) 342-0507 or katie@cathedralolph.org.

From the Diocesan Social Justice Commission

Day of Prayer and Penance for Life: "In US Catholic parishes, January 22nd is observed as a day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. …Lord, love endures all things. In the face of death, destruction, and a culture of death, never, let us lose sight of the beauty of the face of your only-begotten Son, Our Lord, who suffered the torments of his Passion and Death for the sake of our sins. Let us trust that through his Passion we will have the strength to do your will and to carry each cross that comes our way for the glory of God and the love of his little ones."

2010 Respect Life Liturgy Guide, USCCB, www.usccb.org

Day of Prayer at OLBH: 9:00 – 10:00 am, Holy Hour with Adoration.

The Cloud of Unknowing

Saturday, January 22 2011, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Charge of $25.00 includes refreshments and lunch. Registration starts at 8:30 am. This is a joyful DVD presentation by Fr. William Meninger OCSO, St. Benedict Monastery, Snow Mass CO. You will need the book THE CLOUD OF UNKNOWING, by William Johnston, Doubleday. I have four copies to sell at $15.00 each, on a "first come" basis. Registration is necessary. This will give you prayerful information on understanding the beauty of Centering Prayer. Sister Marmion Howe, OSB 1851 City Springs Road, R.C. 57702 or 343-8011

Christian Family Planning Seminar

The next seminar will be offered by the Natural Family Planning Ministry on **Saturday, January 22, 2011 at St. Therese in Rapid City**. ***This seminar is a requirement for engaged couples getting married in the Diocese of Rapid City.*** Married couples, or anyone who wants to learn more about Natural Family Planning, are encouraged to attend. For more information, or to register, call Jill or Kathy at Family Life Ministries at 605-343-3541.

Men in Black Basketball Game

Monday, January 24, STM Commons & Gym
5:00-6:00pm – *Dinner in STM Commons*
6:00pm – *Elementary Students vs Faculty Game*
6:20pm – *Middle School Students vs Faculty Game*
6:45pm – The Main Event: Men in Black Basketball Game (*Priests vs Students*)
Mark your calendars and join us for this great and exciting evening! All are welcome – no charge. Donations will benefit the Diocesan Office of Vocations and the STM Campus Ministry Office.

Heal Your Grief

This bereavement support group is an eight-week non-denominational group open to all Christian adults who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The support group begins at **7:00 p.m., Monday, January 31, 2011,** at Blessed Sacrament Church, 4500 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City. Please come early to register! For information or to pre-register, call Janece Rieman, 605-343-5547 or Jill at Family Life Ministries, 605-343-3541.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The man who finds a wife finds a treasure and receives favor from the Lord. ~ Proverbs 18:22 Let us be thankful for the many gifts God has provided. Show your spouse just how thankful you really are. Our next scheduled romantic Marriage Encounter Weekend is **February 11-13, 2011** at Broom Tree Retreat Center in Irene, SD**.** For more information or to register, please contact Curt & Rochelle Lauret at 605-362-9145 or visit www.wwme.org. *A weekend of discovery … a lifetime of love!*

Meditation: Prelude to Lent

February 20, from 9:00 am to noon. $10.00 fee. The Lenten season brings joy along with sad reflection on Jesus' suffering and death—joy that leads to our Lord's resurrection. It is a gift of Christ's love, and we learn how to bring it to all those we see along the way. Preregistration is necessary. Sister Marmion Howe 343-8011 srmarmion@knology.net

Next Weekend's Ministry Schedule

January 22nd & 23rd, 2011

	Saturday 5:00 pm	Sunday 9:00 am	Sunday 6:00 pm
Bread Baker	Lori Ehresmann		
Altar Servers	Elijah Ehresmann Delainey Kronmiller Rileigh Kronmiller	Hannah Schroeder Liam Schroeder Savannah Inman	Kaleah Evans Austin Evans Rachel McCormick
Precious Body **Precious Blood**	**Deacon** Cathy Wang John Wang Joe Deaver Jerry Silbernagel	**Deacon** Brenda Jacobs Pat Suiter Jean Schubauer Dennis Fischer	**Deacon** Denise McCormick Jim McCormick Lorinda Collings Michelle Bucholz
Lectors	Sue Colgan Steve Colgan	Ariana Montes Marty Quinn	Cathleen Denekamp Tom Collings
Sacristans	Ken Van Asma Kathy Van Asma	Barb Erickson Gary Erickson	Tanya McCaskell Brad McCaskell
Ushers	Ken Wentz Becky Wentz	Billie Inman Paul Inman	Tom, Betsy, Matt & Chris Van Asma
Choir	OLBH Family Choir	Regina's Minstrels	The Covenant Band

Intercessory Prayers

Life and Health Concerns

Carrie Acker
Pattie Hawkins (Sue Colgan's sister)
Bob Ryan (Lorinda Colling's brother)

Repose of the Soul

John Bessette
Richard Field (Aaron Denekamp's uncle)
Rita Hiber (Sue Colgan's mother)

The Collection Basket

January 8th & 9th, 2010

Loose	$ 1560.06
Envelopes	1284.00
Votive	3.00
Student	92.76
Adopt a Seminarian	90.00
Mass Intentions	70.00
Other	470.00
Total	$ 3589.82

No one has ever become poor by giving.

~ Anne Frank

Community News

Black Hawk Cancer Fighters Fundraiser

Hello, My name is Lynn Reindl. I am team captain of the Black Hawk Cancer Fighters Relay for Life Team. We are holding our annual SOUP & DESSERT Fundraiser on January 22, 2011 at the Black Hawk Fire Dept., 6010 Peaceful Pines Rd., Black Hawk, SD, from 11:00 am until 7:00 pm. Come for lunch and stay for supper! We have a wide variety of soups including beef barley, chicken noodle, minestrone, cheesy vegetable, potato, chicken tortilla, ham and bean, vegetable beef, corn chowder and knoepfle (pronounced nifla) plus plenty of homemade desserts and even homemade ice cream; all this for a free will donation. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. If you want further information, please contact Lynn at 605-718-9267 of 605-593-2498.

Reflection for the Week Ahead

Jesus calls us to follow him;
our lives will never be the same.

Children: How do you hear Jesus calling you to do what he wants you to?

Youth: As you grow into young adulthood, Jesus calls you to follow him in particular ways, both big and small. What are some of the small ways in which Jesus calls you to follow him?

Adults: How does Jesus call you to assist in his ministry: the building up of the Reign of God? How do you know what God wants of you in this regard?

For the Ride Home

~ By Ted Bergh

Scripture

- You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory. (Isaiah 49:3)
- And he put a new song into my mouth, (Psalm 40:4)
- … you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, (1 Corinthians 1:2)
- … the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel. (John 1:31)

Reflection

- Is accepting Christ in prayer and the sacraments a part of being holy?
- How do parish activities help you live out your calling to be holy?
  - Being a lector, greeter, Eucharistic minister
  - Justice activities, St Vincent DePaul
  - Men's or women's prayer/social groups; bible study groups
  - Youth groups or seniors' activity
- Do you balance your life between prayer and action to live your calling to be holy?
- How does your family and parish community enable you to be holy?

Those in the church respond to the call to holiness by hearing the word of God preached, sharing in the sacramental life of the Church, and living out those values and insights that we learn from Jesus Christ … Vatican II stated it succinctly in its preface to the decree on the Bishops' Pastoral Office in the Church: "Christ the Lord, Son of the Living God, came that He might save people from their sins and that all people may be made holy." [1]

[1]Lawrence S. Cunningham in *The New Dictionary of Catholic Spirituality* edited by Michael Downey, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN, 1993, P 483.

Next weekend, Fr. Jim Hoerter, from Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City, will be presiding at Eucharist. Please make him feel welcome.

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Embracing Change in the Liturgy

For many people, change does not come easy. Change requires us to stop doing things a certain way in order to do something else. Many people find comfort in familiar routines and known ways of acting. Change interrupts those familiar routines. But change is also an opportunity to stop and reflect on what we are doing and to come to a better understanding of God, who does not change.

Why does the Church change the Liturgy?

In its Liturgy, the Church always attempts to follow the "norm of the holy Fathers." This effort "requires not only the preservation of what our immediate forebears have handed on to us, but also an understanding and a more profound pondering of the Church's entire past. . . . this broader view allows us to see how the Holy Spirit endows the People of God with a marvelous fidelity in preserving the unalterable deposit of faith, even though there is a very great variety of prayers and rites" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 9).

The Liturgy must, therefore, always celebrate and make present the Paschal Sacrifice of Christ—his saving Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. However, over time, it may become necessary to make certain changes, such as adding prayers for recently canonized saints and adding texts that reflect the needs that the People of God wish to bring to God in prayer. The third edition of the *Roman Missal* makes such additions and provides a fresh translation of the Latin texts of the existing content of the *Missal*.

Who decides that the Liturgy should change?

Pope John Paul II approved the promulgation of the third edition of the *Missale Romanum*, the Latin text, on April 20, 2000. The final Latin edition of the revised text was published in March 2002. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments was responsible for preparing the text. The Congregation is the Vatican office that the pope has charged with overseeing all matters related to the Liturgy and the sacraments. Any changes in the words of the sacramental formulas—the essential words in the celebration of each of the sacraments (either in Latin or in vernacular translations)—must be approved by the Holy Father personally. In addition, church law also gives to conferences of bishops (such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) as well as individual bishops certain responsibilities with regard to the Liturgy.

What exactly is changing?

The structure of the Mass (the order of the elements, the actions of the priest celebrant, and so forth) remains unchanged in the new edition of the *Roman Missal*. However, the translation of the prayer texts will change to more closely reflect the original Latin texts. In some cases, new options for prayers may be available, and some old options may no longer be present.

Will the changes be noticeable?

In the third edition of the *Roman Missal*, almost every prayer in the Mass—those spoken by the priest and those spoken by the people—has been retranslated from the Latin to English. Some prayers now recited by memory will need to be relearned, and the familiar language of many prayers recited by the priest will change.

In preparing the new translation, the translators were asked to make the English texts conform more closely to the Latin originals and to retain traditional theological vocabulary that communicates important concepts of the faith. The language that the faithful will hear and pray is more formal and somewhat more complex than the language of ordinary conversation. It conveys rich theological concepts and retains biblical language and images.

How can I prepare for the change?

There are many ways in which you can prepare for the changes in the Mass:

- Make a conscious effort to participate more fully in the Mass each Sunday and holy day.
- Take advantage of any special catechetical sessions offered by your parish or diocese.
- Visit the *Roman Missal* Web site (*www.usccb.org/romanmissal*) to study the new texts and to learn more about the changes.
- Read the new texts of the people's parts at Mass. Begin to study them so that you will be able to pray them well when the new *Roman Missal* is implemented.
- Pray for a renewal of love for the Liturgy in your parish and in the Church.

What difference will these changes make in my parish?

Some of the differences will be obvious immediately. We will have to learn new musical settings for the various parts of the Mass. We will learn new words for common prayers, such as the Creed. Those of us who began saying the Mass prayers by heart long ago will need to rely on printed texts again, at least for a while. In the early months of the transition, we may find it more challenging to pray with one voice as people adjust to the new texts and gradually commit them to their hearts.

But these surface differences will give way to deeper and more significant changes. If we use the time of preparation well, we will make the changes with a deeper understanding of the Liturgy and a renewed reverence for and appreciation of the Mass. We will hear the prayers with new ears and with new hearts. Our Liturgy will be filled with new life and new spirit as we celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ made present for us.

Where can I turn for help in understanding these changes?

The first stop for catechesis and formation regarding these changes is your parish and diocese. All the faithful are encouraged to take advantage of parish efforts. You can attend catechetical sessions, read articles in the parish bulletin or newsletter or the diocesan newspaper, listen closely to homilies that help explain the changes, and come early to Mass to practice new musical settings for the prayers.

In addition, many dioceses, schools, universities, and retreat centers will offer programs to help people understand and appreciate the new translation. You can take advantage of these programs where possible.

The official Web site for the third edition of the *Roman Missal* is found at *www.usccb.org/romanmissal*. A variety of resources will be posted that may help you.

Catholic publishers and national organizations will publish many resources, in print and online, to help you negotiate this time of change. Check out your parish book rack or your local Catholic bookstore to see what is available.

What if I don't like the new translation?

For most people, the unfamiliar is always uncomfortable, at least at first. The more familiar the old is, the more challenging it may be to accept and embrace the new. It is completely normal to feel uncomfortable as you begin studying and reading the new texts. Taking steps to become more familiar with the texts can help a great deal. At the same time, be open to the possibility that you will find things to appreciate in the rich language of the new texts. The more you read them and study them and pray them, the more familiar and comfortable they will become and the more you will appreciate the theological depth they convey.

Taking the time to learn more about your faith, including the Mass and Scripture, can help you appreciate the new texts more fully. Using the catechetical opportunities made available by your parish and diocese can help you overcome concerns about the changes.

Finally, you can take your concerns to God in prayer. Pray for a deeper understanding of the meaning of these texts and for an open heart to grow in communion with the Church.

What can I do to make the process of change a good one for my parish?

Everyone has a role to play in preparing to use the new translations:

- Study the new texts with an open heart and an open mind so that you will be ready to use them in the Liturgy.
- Take advantage of opportunities to learn more about the new texts by attending catechetical programs and reading articles about the new texts.
- Offer to assist your pastor or parish director of religious education in preparing parish catechetical events.
- If you are a parent, teach your children the new prayers and help them to understand the changes. Encourage them to participate in the Mass fully and to learn more about their faith.
- Be very intentional about celebrating the Liturgy each Sunday and holy day. Arrive on time (or a bit early). Pray and sing with attentiveness. Stay focused on the action of the Liturgy rather than letting your mind wander. Hold the Sacrament of the Eucharist in great reverence. Finally, give thanks to God in your heart for so great a gift.

Times of change are always a challenge. But from this challenge can come a deeper appreciation of who we are as the Body of Christ, gathering to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord.

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